

MEETING NOTES

UTAH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ANTI-VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Wednesday, April 26, 2000

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

State Capitol Building - Room 223

Present: James Mason, Holly Bullen proxy for Dan Becker, Richard Melton proxy for Rod Betit, Representative Gary Cox, Gary Dalton, Craig Dearden, Patrick Fleming, Kirk Torgensen proxy for Pete Haun, Kristine Knowlton, Steve Laing, Verne Larsen, Harold Morrill, Mary Phillips, Reed Richards, JoAnn Seghini, Diane Stuart, Karen and Sherm Watkins

Excused: Bill Afeaki, Meredith Alden, Camille Anthony, Dan Becker, Rod Betit, Camille Cain, Merrill Carter, Mont Evans, Jan Graham, Pete Haun, Jane Piercey and Scott Reed

Visitors: Steve Harrison, Leon PoVey, Marline PoVey and Jack Tanner

Staff: Mary Lou Emerson and Diane Ngatuva

Agenda Item: Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Chair Dr. James Mason welcomed all present and introductions were made. *A motion was made by Craig Dearden to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2000 meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Laing and approved unanimously by the Council.*

Agenda Item: National Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Initiative Proposal for USAAV Council to be Grant Advisory Group

Dr. Steve Harrison, Associate Research Professor from the University of Utah Social Research Institute, addressed the Council. Dr. Harrison explained that the federal government, through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, is providing \$9 million over the next three years to develop a statewide substance abuse prevention program. The question was whether the USAAV Council would act as a grant advisory group and help coordinate the prevention activities going on throughout the state. The grant money would flow through the Governor's Office, with the State Division of Substance Abuse (SDSA) as grant manager. Pat Fleming explained

Agenda Item: Recognition of Outgoing Council Member

Dr. Mason presented Leon PoVey with a certificate signed by Governor Leavitt, designating him as an honorary member of the USAAV Council. He was recognized for his ten years of dedicated service to the Council and presented with tokens of the Council's appreciation for his many contributions to the substance abuse and anti-violence cause.

Agenda Item: Review of 2000 Utah Legislative Session

Mary Lou gave an overview of how the Council fared during the 2000 Legislative Session. She noted that two of the Council's five priority bills passed: *H.B. 77 - Controlled Substances Amendments* (date rape drugs) and *H.B. 81 - Controlled Substances Precursor Amendments*. While discussing the tobacco settlement money, Dick Melton reported that the Utah Department of Health has formed a Tobacco Prevention Advisory Committee. They have put together a tentative distribution of funds, not in terms of who should receive them but what the area of impact should be. Verne Larsen felt strongly that a substance abuse prevention specialist and a Safe and Drug-Free Schools coordinator should be added to the current eight-member Tobacco Prevention Advisory Committee, as well as a representative of local health departments. *Harold Morrill made a motion to strongly encourage the Health Department to enhance coordination and prevent duplication of statewide prevention efforts, as well as do everything possible to enhance the Prevention Dimensions curriculum and resources needed to continue this in the schools.* Dick Melton agreed to bring these issues to the attention of Rod Betit for his consideration.

Dr. Mason asked for ideas as to how the Council could be more effective legislatively next year. Rep. Gary Cox suggested that the first line of business would be to look at the candidates that are running and see which have positions that align with the Council. Leon suggested that presentations to various committees regarding the Council priorities should begin earlier. Harold felt that meeting with the House and Senate leadership would be very helpful as well.

Agenda Item: Report from Domestic Violence Cabinet and Advisory Councils

Diane Stuart reported that the Domestic Violence Cabinet Council meets quarterly. They have put together regional training around judicial districts with the emphasis being on a coordinated community response. Last June the Governor signed an Executive Order requesting each department to have a domestic violence policy in place. The departments are required to have their policies, or their progress, back to the Cabinet Council by July. Kris Knowlton noted that there were only two of the Domestic Violence Advisory Council's legislative bills that passed this last session, and no funding was forthcoming. The Domestic Violence Advisory Council is in the process of developing its own website.

Agenda Item: 2000-2001 USAAV Annual Report

With regard to legislation, Mayor JoAnn Seghini noted that half of what is done is public education and the other half is to get people actively involved. A large lobbying group is the Utah League of Cities and Towns. They hold two conventions a year, with the next one scheduled for September. She suggested that it might be beneficial for USAAV to have a workshop at this convention addressing the community problems that exist because of substance abuse, domestic violence, and the lack of prevention programs. This would be one way to get every mayor in the state of Utah behind legislation that supports these concepts. Mayor Seghini volunteered to introduce any legislation to the Utah League of Cities and Towns Policy Committee and ask for their support. The Council expressed enthusiasm for this idea.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the USAAV Council will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2000, from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., in room 403 of the State Capitol Building. Lunch will be provided.